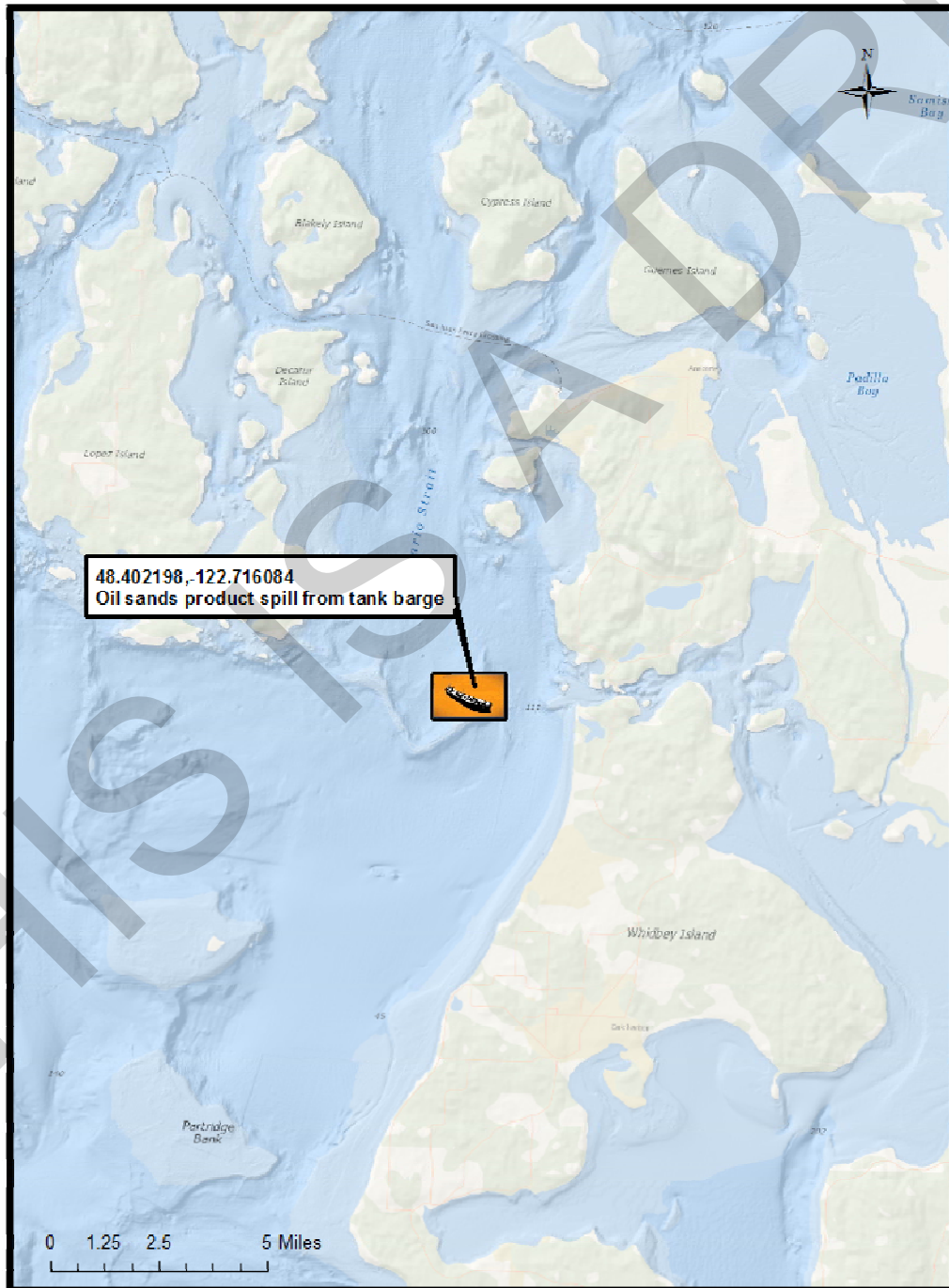


Vessel – Marine (North Puget Sound- Salish Sea)

At 0130 on April 14th, a laden tug and barge carrying 85,000 barrels of oil sands product transited southbound out of Rosario Strait and crossed over Lawson Reef. Low tide was 4.94 feet at 0122. Due to the relatively high speed of the vessel when it struck the reef, both layers of the double-hulled barge were damaged. This resulted in a release of approximately 60,000 barrels of oil sands product into the waters of Puget Sound. Weather on-scene has been mild storm conditions with 35kt winds from the south and 5-7ft swells. High tide this morning was 6.09 feet at 0848; low tide will be .92 feet at 1543 this afternoon. Initial reports mentioned a significant sheen around the vessel. Notifications were made and unified command formed.



April 16-17, 2013

Resource Concerns

The Salish Sea is the network of waterways located between the southwestern tip of British Columbia, Canada and the northwestern tip of Washington State. The major water bodies are the Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Puget Sound. Lawson Reef is a bar located just 8.2 miles from Oak Harbor, in Island County, in the state of Washington.

The vicinity of Lawson Reef: Shallow intertidal and subtidal habitats in the area are rearing areas for juvenile salmon, Dungeness crab, hardshell clams, and other fish and shellfish. Other shellfish in the area include abalone [FCo/SC]*, pandalid shrimp, and red sea urchin.

Several harbor seal haulouts exist within 3-5 miles of the spill location on reefs, islands, and rocks on either side of Rosario Strait. The reefs, islands, and rocks are also nesting and roosting sites for seabirds and shorebirds including marbled murrelets [FT/SC].

Southern resident killer whales [FE/SE] may be present, especially from April through September. Dalls porpoise and harbor porpoise are also present.

Northwest salmonid species are present in this region. Juvenile salmonids of several species, including Puget Sound chinook [FT], use shallow nearshore areas extensively for feeding and rearing. Forage fish spawning occurs throughout the region. Herring [FCo/SC] spawning and small pockets of spawning habitat for sandlance and surf smelt occur on and gravel beaches throughout the region.

Deception Pass State Park, three miles from the spill site, has substantial public beach access. Impacts to these areas could be detrimental to tourism. Several lakes and streams feed into Deception Passage as well, which provide spawning and rearing habitat for various salmonid species.



This photo (looking south) shows Whidbey Island and Deception Passage with the northwest and southwest corners of Cranberry Lake visible in left center.

Eelgrass and kelp beds are present throughout the area's shorelines. Eelgrass provides important habitat for wildlife and commercially harvested animals. Eelgrass is used as a nursery by salmon, crab, perch, and herring. Eelgrass is also home for millions of worms, shrimp, clams, and other invertebrates that are food for great blue herons, eagles, otters, seals, as well as humans.

Salt marshes in sheltered areas throughout the region are important habitat for a diverse array of fish and wildlife species.

Many different Native American groups have a historical and continuing presence in Washington State. There may be cultural and historical resources throughout the area. There are potentially usual and accustomed fishing rights for several tribes in this area.

Washington State is one of the most trade-dependent states in the nation. There are seven deep-draft ports on Puget Sound, one coastal port and three on the Columbia River. A major oil spill in this area could disrupt shipping and commerce, as well as military operations on Whidbey Island.

***Sensitive species include the following federal and state designations:** Federal Endangered (FE), Federal Threatened (FT), Federal Candidate (FC), Federal Species of Concern (FCo), State Endangered (SE), State Threatened (ST), State Candidate (SC), State Sensitive (SS).